

**Dean Gentry
P.O. Box 321
St. Maries, ID 83861-0321**

January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

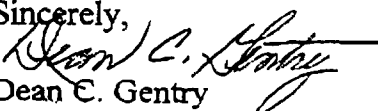
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

From the start of the US vs. Microsoft lawsuit, I have been opposed to the way that the government has bullied Microsoft on behalf of many of Microsoft's competitors. The Department of Justice has interfered with the IT industry and with Microsoft claiming with the intent of bettering the status of the consumer. The truth is that if the consumer's interest were at the center of this lawsuit, it would have been resolved much sooner than it has been. Three years of litigation have proven that special interests and greed have taken center stage in this lawsuit.

Microsoft has made many concessions in the settlement, including opening parts of proprietary code to competitors and making parts of its flagship Windows program removable by the consumer. Such concessions combined with the enormous amount of money that Microsoft has spent defending itself more than compensate for any substantive wrongdoing Microsoft may be guilty of.

The settlement's benefit to the consumer is indirect and ambiguous at best. We won't know for a long time whether the IT industry and the consumer will reap any benefit from all of this. However, we do know that the longer that the suit remains unresolved, the more damage will be done to the consumer. That is why the Department of Justice owes the American people a swift end to this suit that is this proposed settlement can bring.

Sincerely,


Dean C. Gentry

cc: Senator Larry Craig